# CHINA'S NEW PRESIDENT TELLS OF ITS PROBLEMS

### Southern Dissenters and Military Reforms Present Two of Gravest Puzzles, With Finances Next

In Interview with President Feng Feng's illness prevented his appear

#### By K. K. KAWAKAMI.

N the early morning of September pekin that his Excellency President reng Kuo-chang would receive me at rows of high walls. o'clock that afternoon at the presidential palace. How simply such ar-

Half an hour earlier than the apsointed time I arrived at Hsin Hus Men, the main gate to the palace, Here frock coat cut after the latest style. He greeted me in such excellent Japaness that I hesitated to speak. The ese are remarkable linguists. Of nine Ministers of State in the present tend Lady Feng. Cabinet at least three are able to conerse in Japanese with the freedom of

pre me within the gate was so fas-sting that it made upon my mind impression which will never fade as I live. The lake that spread in 1914, when the General's first wife that of the water. This was called with that of the water. This was called utes, when a small man, clad in civil-

the side of the lake stood a cluster

Wour Excellency, I beg to present

Mr. K. K. Kawakami of America and

Japan." stastic buildings, forming an inner to the presidential palace.

Letus Path to Palace. The centleman who met me at the for in the Foreign Office. He was I was told that I could proceed either by rikisha or by boat, both of which wre placed at the disposal of those leged to visit the palace precincts. ourse I preferred the picturesque best to the pressale man power cart.

The boat was a miniature housewent slowly and meditatively ploughing the narrow lane left open through the lotus leaves covering the face of the lake. As we passed a tiny upon which stood a palace painted in gargeous hues of gold, red and purple I was told that it was where the late Empress Dowager im-

permitted to go, although the President receives in the official building, where he attends to affairs of me in the office of President." The gate before which we stood was the one leading to that building.

ance at the administrative palace.

And so we took rikishas at the landing and rode half a mile or more, now along the lotus lake, now through 9 I received word by telephone rows of picturesque structures, now through the Foreign Department at Finally the rikishas stopped in the middle of a narrow avenue formed by

President Like a Banker.

In a few minutes we found ourselves fential panels.

rangements are made these days! in a drawing room of the private quargurely China has changed and is the Chinese Republic. What a plain room! There was no elegant furniture such as you find in the White House. The dozen chairs of western style that we found there were upholstered very plainly, though quite I was met by a Chinese gentleman in There was little touch of the artistic, as you of the West would understand the term. As we took seats we noticed through the bamboo screen that hangs

> a foreign physician just arrived to at-Before her marriage to General Feng Kuo-chang, Lady Feng was well known as Miss Chow in the palace of the late President Yuan Shih-k'si, as she was a tutor to the children of the demised President. It was through Yuan's advice that Miss Chow and General Feng were united in marriage

between our parlor and the vestibule

Many End, the South Sea.

Along the edge of the "sea" ran a spinnish driveway leading to the palacha Ancient trees reared their heads and, with a bow, addressed the man; the hills

I could hardly believe my ears or my eyes. Was this democratic, unas-suming, gentle looking man Marshal Feng Kuo-chang, the President of China? I had expected to find in the ras Mr. Yen Chi-chang, a coun- President an erect, commanding figure of military bearing. But the man there to escort me to the palace and who grasped my hand reminded me of stepret for me during the audience. a banker or a merchant rather than a powerful General controlling the fa-

"Your Excellency is the third President I have been privileged to meet," I said with a bow, adding, "The first two Presidents were American Pres

Scarcely had Mr. Yen finished interpreting when his Excellency cast a augurated?" I asked. significant glance toward me, as if to reproach my impertinence.

No Legislature at Present.

confirmed by the Legislature. Unfor- be inaugurated very soon." South Sea was linked with the Middle tunately the Legislature had been disthree miles further north. Usually the ing President, and no new Legislature eign, and their views seemed

tial chair. But the south was in no which he had held only for a few weeks.

"In the third place, the House of it is closely bound up with the quee position to resist Yuan's pressure. Representatives as constituted by the Consequently Sun Yat-sen was obliged Nanking law is all too large, and is to resign and surrender the Presidency, therefore unwieldy. In the fourth pleted treasury of the nation, place, the Constitution does not permit but before yielding to Yuan the ture when the latter passes a vote of ment amount to some \$6,000,000 (Mex-



President Feng Kuo-chang. The characters comprise his autograph.

"That is at present difficult to say. We intend to convene a national council which will perhaps consist of mem-"I do not consider myself a Presi- bers nominated by provincial Goverdent." he explained with emphasis, "I nors, though just how the members am as yet simply acting as President. will be chosen has not been deter-Under the Nanking Provisional Consti- mined. We shall ask this body to

walked into our office with the same

"We aim to live a pious life and

prised. We're afraid they might come

Methodist church in Fayette, Mo., the

moved bodily from some autumn con-

"Across the rear of the platform was

an old time rail fence, behind which

apparently was the side of a corn field. To one side was a real apple tree with

real apples hanging from its branches. "Numerous trees helped to fill the

background and were full of wild The whole platform

covered with autumn leaves and as

a final touch to such a wonderful

scene a little field mouse, brought in

with the corn, came out and played

Missouri is dieting about like the

rest of the country. That means she

is eating all she wants and is giving

generously of her surplus. Nearly

everybody made a large garden in the

spring and early summer, and people

speak gleefully of the stores of

"You'll have a great deal more than

you'll need yourself, won't you?" one of these amateur gardeners was

"Well. I reckon-more than twice as

"Then you'll make a nice little

"Oh, I don't intend to sell anything."

said the producer: "I'm going to keep

all I got-they won't catch me short

Dr. C. W. Reagan, who was a mem-

because they were eating less. Th

"No." he replied. "it's because they

profit on what you sell?"

those who sat near the front."

for a food conservation servi-

There was a realistic background

"The pulpit seemed to be a spot

to visit us."

other Sunday.

in the cellars.

much.

soon the new Legislature will be in-augurated?" I asked. powers of the President were carefully circumscribed as a safeguard against

erty to point out the defects of the Nanking Constitution?"
"That instrument," the President ex-Hsu, whose progressive ideals incurred tution, the Vice-President succeeds to frame a new election isw, in according the office of President if for any reason ance with which the members of the was drafted and adopted by plained, "was drafted and adopted by plained, "was drafted and adopted by plained," was drafted and adopted by and North seas extending for two or salved before I assumed duty as Act-licists in Pekin, both Chinese and for- of the people. It was hurriedly drafted to agree and was promulgated with equal haste. has as yet been organized to confirm as to the impracticability of the Nan- A constitution should never be adopted

Legislature?

blooks the passage of important administrative measures for the sheet purpose of embarrassing the Cabinet.

to assure me that he had no idea of deviating from the Nanking provi-

No one will deny that China's great-est problem to-day is the question of

Roughly speaking, the administrasouthern leaders saw to it that the want of confidence in the Cabinet or lean) per month on the average, while its revenue scarcely reaches \$4,000,000. Here is a monthly deficit of \$2,000,000. and yet the Central Government obliged to pay army bills mainly to line the pockets of military leaders. The disbanding of at least some of the provincial troops has naturally been seriously considered by thoughtful

The so-called Reorganization Loan of 1912 had for one of its objects the dissolution of provincial armies, whose main business is the disturbance of the peace. But the fund was not used as it should have been, and the national treasury is still imposed upon by the military chiefs, who also levy taxes in their respective provinces in rumored that China will sooner or later raise another reorganization loan part of which will be employed for the dment of provincial troops.

With these thoughts in my mind asked the President if it would be possible to disband provincial troops without causing the rebellion of their "That is a difficult matter," the

replied in a deliberative mood. "The thoroughgoing rehabilitation of our military system is one of problems demanding our attention. But we must employ the itmost caution in handling this question, or we shall stir a hornet's nest

Unwilling to Part With Troops.

"Few military leaders are willing to part with their troops, which are the only source of their influence. If the Central Government were to take harsh measures in depriving them of their men they would revolt.

"Again, we must see to it that the disbanded soldiers do not degenerate into robbers and brigands, as they have too often done in the past. It is therefore no ousy task to reform our military system along modern lines, but we hope that when the Central Government is placed upon a more solid base the present number of 800,000 men will be reduced to 600,000."

As the President finished the last

sentence a clock in the next chamber struck 5 Surely the President must have allowed me more time than he was accustomed to allow a journalist I bowed and thanked him for his generosity in granting me an audience The President smiled and beckones me to drink ten that had been placed before me, having himself taken a sip from a beautiful cup.

Thus ended the first interview granted to a foreign journalist by Marshal Peng Kuo-chang since he graced the Presidential chair on the

The President is about to celebrate the sixtleth anniversary of his birth Throughout his career he has been dentified with the army. During the Chino-Japanese war he was an artilery officer and fought the Japanese

His abilities were first recognized by the late Yuan Shih-k'al, to whom he is indebted for his rapid promotion When the revolution broke out in the Yangtsu region in the winter of 1911 Feng Kuo-chang was ordered by Yuan Shih-k'ai to go to Hankow and supprese the rebellion there. In 1918 Gen. reng was appointed by Yuan to be Military Governor of Kiangsu, the capital of which is Nanking.

n Corea and Manchurla.

the republicans became apparently so friendly that the Parliament at Pekir 1916, when Li Yuan-hung, Vice-President until then, had to occupy the Presidential chair because of President Yuan Shih-k'ai's death. Now that Vice-President Feng has succeeded Li Yuan-hung as President the republicans of the South are reluctant to recognise his right to occupy that post. nether President Feng will succeed

## NEED FOR STEEL HITS JAPAN HARD

#### May Force Withdrawal of , Tonnage From European and American Service and Curb Nation's Prosperity

make—she will doubtless withdraw her exchange for an adequate supply of shine from the Atlantic and Rusopean American steel. But of course the ships from the Atlantic and Buropean services. In a rough way there are about 200,000 tone of Japan's merchant ing to the Hocht's informant the tonfleet which either have been chartered mage was raised to from 250,000 to by the other members of the Entente group or are devoted exclusively to the service of transporting arms and supplies for her allies.

If America were to refuse to supply steel plates Japan could not complete the new vessels which are in course of construction at her shipbuilding yards. The shipbuilding industry of Japan in fact would die a sudden and violent the \$00,000 additional tomage called teath. And if Japan cannot replace for would include an overwhelming her ships it would be nothing short of a majority of all the efficient oversea a crime against common sense and her boats under the sun flag to-day.

Very national existence to risk a vital

It has been stated in some quarters portion of her "floating treasures."

She would not take all the ships away from the Allies' service, of course, per- of which are available for ocean carryhaps not 50 per cent, of them, but she would and should take the more valu- Japan might be able to shift to the able vessels. And there is no other Atlantic service 500,000 tons without answer she could possfoly make.

Japan's Shipbuilding.

for example:

Japan at present is building or has somable indeed; even modest, in And so it is —in a statistical table.

the shipways at the different ship-building plants of Japan to-day, not quite accurate. Ninety of the number are large ocean going ships, which will be able to per- the Department of Communication of form valuable service when finished. Japan gave out official statistics about The total tonnage of ships of this

Osaka Iron Works heads the list in building this class of ships with thirty- tonnage of about 200.000 four vessels of a total tonnage of 166,000 gross. The Ursga dockyard comes next with twelve ships of combined tonnage of 65.238 tons gross. The newly established Asano plant

at Yokohama is either actually building or has made plans to build nine of 66,078 tons gross, and the Mitsubishi dockyards at Nagasaki and Kobe have nine of a total gross tonnage of works at Kobe follow them with six vessels of 33,600 tons gross.

In addition to these there are a good many among the non-subsidized vessels in course of construction which can serve as ocean freighters admira-And now the entire amount of steel

in the hands of all the Japanese shiptal of which is Nanking.

building plants at present is reported | Japanese ocean carriers those which from that time his attitude toward to amount to not more than 200,000 can be so styled without too much tons. That takes in steel plates, Oriental politeness and without resortshapes and every other kind of ma-

## This amount of steel may enable

the construction of the better class chartered by Americans. of ships, namely, those being built If Japan were to comply with the under the subsidy law. It is quite out American wishes and hand over 200,tinue the work on the remaining 280 just mentioned to the United States United States for about 400,000 tons oceans and on the European service Most of this steel was meant for the does not often stop to consider what the work had not progressed very far one does study the proposition one will On all these ships, amounting to more find that \$00,000 tens of occangoing than 900,000 tons in all, the work has ships are about twice the tonnage of been stopped. If the negotiations for all the Japanese ships on the Pacific the American steel fail most of them at present. And our American friends will be left standing and uncompleted have heard and are hearing from time as long as the war lasts or until the to time that the merchant ships of

shipbuilding facilities. It means some- all other flags! thing very close to the rulnation of the smaller Japanese ship- Steel Independence for Japan. yards. It certainly would spell the wastage of the labor of thousands on of the Japanese Government can tell

of course. But it would not take a for the cause of the Entente Allies. prophet to see the effect of such a It would as has been said, comof the Entente Allies.

utilize all the steel plates this country strained to the breaking point; it can produce, then certainly it would be would disrupt her economic and com-Japan or to any other country. But wide to anarchy in her industrial life. ruch does not appear to be the case. Judge Gary of the United States Steel all, perhaps, is the effect the continu-Corporation placed the annual produc-tion of steel ingots in the United on the future of the steel production States at about 41,000,000 tons. What of Japan. Japanese shipbuilders are bidding for is about 1 per cent, of the American down upon her knees in the dust

#### America's Demand. The writer has it from a high

the United States to bring about the From this experience she is bound fore she was asked to turn over to the Atlantic service a certain number of tion, that she shall be free and indethe Japanese ships the Japanese pendent in her steel supplies in the authorities approached America with some such offer. The Hocks and other Tokio newspapers just received in New York give the alleged details of the negotiations between the United American steel business in Japan and States and Japan.

early stage of the negotiations the American authorities declined point blank to remove the ban on steel export. But a little later the Japanese effect that the United States might consider the thing on the basis manner to fester her own. of Japan's turning over to the United States both for her and for her allies' use some \$00,000 tons of ships.

By ADACHI KINNOSUKE. | to turn over 800,000 tons of her ocean-F the negotiations to lift the American embargo on steel fail Japan tiate the matter on the basis of 150,000 has one, and only one, answer to tons of Japanese merchant shipping in 150,000 tone was far from satisfying the American authorities, and accord-

As was stated at the outset, about 200.000 tons of Japanese merchant shipping is either chartered by the Entente Allies or serving them in their transportation work. To increase this tonnage by the additional 300,000 tons means that Japan would have to cripple and to the point of annihilation-both her European and the Pacific service, for the reason that

that Japan has "an aggregate shipping tonnage of 1,900,000, about 1,300,000 tons ing." From that it would appear that committing maritime harakiri. In the face of the above figures also the sug-Japan's Shipbuilding.

Some of the consequences of the emUnited States—and of course for the bargo may not be quite clear in the cause of the Entente Allies 300,000 minds of the American people—these, tons of ocean going ships looks reasonable indeed; even modest, in fact.

It has been stated in some quarters

contracted to build 370 vessels of the combined tonnage of 1,800,000 tons. A fairly large percentage of them are on the above proposition does not work smoothly, for the figures quoted are

At the end of August of this year They are qualified to receive the Gov-our ships. According to this official table Japan had 2,129 ships of all types for encouraging shipbuilding, and ac- and sizes at that time. Of the numbers Class amounts to 430,006 the. The number of ships of from 1.000 to 3,006 tons was more than 130, with a total

#### Profitable Marine Antiques. But the most serious item which will

oring the oceangoing tonnage of the Japanese ships down from statistical grandeur to shabby worksday prose is ships of this class of a total tennage to tennage of Japan forms one of the most excellent collections for for a marine museum. Of course a number of the floating antiques owned by Japan have been sold back to the Britishers from whom they bought. The Japanese got ten times but then that is a minor detail-and ishers had many a hearty laugh when heathens.

In putting the tonnage of the ing to the standard of an old ladies' elected him Vice-President in July, terial which will go into the building home—at 700,000 tons, one will not be 1916, when Li Yuan-hung, Vice-Presi- of ships. close to 200,000 tons of ships of this type are working to-day for the gov-ernments or peoples of the Entents the Japanese yards to go shead with Allies; about 70,000 tons of them are

> ships of the slower or smaller type. one can readily see how much would Japan had contracted here in the be left on the Pacific and the Indian f steel before the ban was announced. from Japan and the Far East. One above mentioned 280 vessels, on which 300,000 tons of shipping means. If steel mills of Japan and China suc- Nippon have lasted brooms at their coed in increasing their output greatly. mastheads and swept the big ocean This means a tremendous waste of clean of the Stars and Stripes and

#### Nobody who is not in the confidence

thousands of skilled workmen which what it will or will not do, but if the Entente countries cannot afford Japan is going to do this thing, to hand over to America 300,000 tons of If Japan falls to persuade the United her ships, it is a pity that she talks States to lift the embargo on steel about getting American steel as a the chief mourner at the industrial quid pro quo. This not of hers would funeral would be no other than herself. be a dazzling piece of herote sacrifice

icy on the transportation problems pletely wreck Japan's European bustthe American shippards can carrying treds, already burdened and folly for America to sell any to mercial life; it would open the door But the biggest significance of it

The embargo has beaten Japan made her see with her own eyes what an abject slave Nippon is in one of the most vital elements of national defence. It is one of the bitterest pills authority that Japan is prepared to go to the limit in meeting the wishes of her national pride has ever had to

been, it is undoubtedly a blessing in disguise as far as Japan is concerned. But what of the to-morrow of the the Far East?

Japan cannot manufacture fron and stoel as cheaply as the United States -perhaps never will. But then she weapon in the shape of an import tariff. And to bring about the indesource the Tokio papers do not state) pendence of her steel supply she will have to use it in the most effective concerned, her steel lassiness with Japan had been almost a negligible The matter was taken up by the item in the years before the war when Japanese officials of the division of Germany, England and Belgium all shipping at once. They thought that competed in supplying the Far East-it was utterly impracticable for Japan ern market.

The Tenyo Maru, one of Japan's crack liners, in dry dock at Hongkong.

# meeting at a church in a Mis. teers.

speaker impressed upon the congregation the importance of economy in cattless that there might be enough to ship to the fighting men peak will take charge of them and at the fighting men peak will take charge of them and at the fighting men peak will take charge of them and at the fighting men peak will take charge of them and at the fighting men peak will take charge of them and at the fighting men peak will take charge of them and at the fighting men peak will take charge of them and at the fighting men peak will take charge of them and at the fighting men peak will take charge of them and at the fighting men peak will take charge of them and at the fighting men peak will take charge of them and at the fighting men peak will take the fighting men peak will be the fighting will be overseas. Then the minister announced : a turkey social for Thursday night and ute them to the boys. At the door food pledge cards were

handed to the people as they were going out. The next Sunday these cards were handed in signed. One little girl and wasteless meals." and enumerated mong her sacrifices for the cause of food conservation that she had not attended the turkey social. Born and reared on corn bread and

he wheatless and sugarless pledge. A Missouri housewives how to make various things to eat out of cornmeal. It's like trying to interest the people of France and Italy in the use of wine as beverage. In a State where corn is There are cynics who say if they stick the real gold mine of the soil it is not likely the citizenship will revolt at the

De socials. At one of these held in the arly part of November in the eastern a food conserver, Miss Christine Coldistrict school, where the conservation scrious. part; was held, and thus describes the successful. Twenty-two pies ly one ple brought less than 50 folk?" while most of them brought

Thave twenty-five pupils enrolled. Somey of the Palmyra Spectator hap-twenty of whom are boys. I have pened on to a miracle, a direct interand one girl in my seventh

ahout \$1. Ernest Hoover was auc-

takey toy work very much. "CHRISTING COLSURN.

in carrying on the conservation for county Appeal has thought up an owed in other counties. Here it is: Scunty's soldier boys are hungry for President of the United States. cookies like mother used to make. We

souri town, during which the te bake a batch for some soldier boy feller would draw a check for a nun-"Every woman or girl who is willing nonchalant air that John D. Rocke-

its own expense forward and distrib- touched it, and that's not all we're going to do, either. Think of it, you "Full particulars will be given next poor folks, a real country ham off of

week, including instructions for pack- a real Chester White hog, with coming. The names of those who will as- mon breeds roosting so high it takes sist in getting the precious packages a Liberty bond to bring one down. off will also be announced. "We are also planning a Candy Day treat all men as brothers, but if we in camp for a later date. Let's con-quit speaking to our friends during vince the boys that we are for them the next few days no one may be sur-

at every turn. Let's begin by filling their camp with gladness on Cooky Day. Send in your name. It will be placed on your box." In northeastern Missouri there are patriotic members of food saving clubs who have weighed themselves and set down the figures. They will do this agein about January 1, believing that every pound lost will be evidence of sixteen ounces of added patriotism

to corn bread and molasses the scales Government's edict to use it instead of what the increased weight will mean. will go the wrong way, and they ask In a great many rural centres they would find fault with the coloring of the rating to the national policy of the rainbow. The hard part of the Government's requirement for Missouri will be to

slacken up on country sausage in the of Randolph county Ernest fall and winter. When you convince onver was selected as auctioneer by a Missourian that he ought to go light on sausage he'll know that a real born. Miss Colborn teaches the Marr war is on and that things are getting In a recent reminiscent mood the

My ple supper last Friday night Appeal asks of his old friend Bildad: "Talking about memory tests, Bil-The sold, bringing a total of \$20.35. dad, have you tried to recall the time highest price was \$3.05, paid for | when country sausage was plentiful at Neta Dooley's pie; the next four pounds for a quarter and pumpfor Miss Nellie Dooley's; the kin ple was in the reach of those of third \$1.25 for Miss Eunice Tawney's. us who were known as poor but honest

While undergoing the discomforts of a patriotic endeavor to conserve at the food he possibly could, Frank position of Providence, he thinks, because of his loyalty. No wonder he Marr is an excellent district and I wrote a little excitedly about it:

"We pause long enough from the like I was last year." mad rush of accumulating sufficient "I S. Miss Lillian Gaston's pie cash to have a tire vulcanized, the ber of one of the local exemption batteries charged and broken spring boards, was asked how he accounted mended to state that Billy Doolittle for the improved health of the people compaign Jack Blanton of the Mon- is the best looking mar we ever saw. last summer-if he didn't think it was He is a gentleman and a scholar, a the which is almost certain to be fol- Christian and a Democrat and we'll doctor laughed. vote for him for any office from constable of South River township to are eating more. You see all of them President of the United States.

"Incidentally he owns the best hogs didn't have to buy so much. So of plan to have a Cooky Day for these in Marion county and we are in a po- course they got fat."

gate, for that was as far as the boat succession, to be effective, must be you see that the Legislature will not

king Constitution of 1912. It was The President's interesting remarks adopted when the ambitious Yuan dom. encouraged me to venture upon the Shih-k'ai had been making a strong To-day, however, his Excellency was, dangerous ground of political discus- bid for the Presidency. The southern

Mr. Yen explained, obliged to receive sion which I had meant to avoid.

The publicans had no faith in Yuan and spective powers of the President hoped that the Canton party would me in his private quarters, as Lady "Could your Excellency tell me how wanted Sun Yat-sen in the President and the Prime Minister are not clearly sooner or later see the futility and un-MISSOURI GLEEFULLY ADOPTS

the autocratic aspirations of Yuan Shih-k'ai. In other words, the Nanking Constitution was directed against an ambitious military man whom its framers regarded as their avowed en-

seventeen men arbitrarily chosen by Dr. Sun Yat-sen and his associates. Naturally it does not embody the will in such disregard of caution and wis-

"The first effect of the Nanking Constitution lies in the fact that the reof the President. How can the Presi- rassment of the central Government. dent accomplish anything when he is deprived of the power to select his Ministers without the approval of the financial rehabilitation. In discussing in reconciling them

of the Nanking document."

Here the President took great pains

sional Constitution except in so far as the present extraordinary situation compalled him to act otherwise. That was what Fremier Tuan Chi-jui had also told me. Obviously the leaders of the administration are employing every precaution to minimise the antagonism entertained toward them by the republican leaders at Canton, ap-

The President denied with great emphasis that he had any idea of employing force in his efforts to bring the outhern dissenters to terms. He the too rigid restriction of the powers whose main purpose was the embar-

this question one must remember that see.

parently eager to uphold the Nanking